

Subject: Research Program - Alternatives to Fish Screens

Background: Entrainment of juvenile fish at diversions has long been identified as a problem. The most effective means of preventing entrainment is to screen the diversion with a modern fish screen. Evaluations of alternative methods of preventing entrainment at larger diversions have not identified any effective solutions other than positive fish screens. However, when evaluating screening at smaller diversions under 25 cfs, there may be other techniques for preventing entrainment that could be cost effective in some situations.

Examples of options other than fish screens which could be evaluated include a change in diversion depths or a change in the distance of the diversion from the channel edge.

Proposed Action: Fund a research program to (a) develop an array of techniques, other than fish screens, which are expected to reduce entrainment and (b) test these new techniques in one watershed to assess their relative usefulness.

Geographic Area: The developed techniques will have application throughout the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta system. The watershed selected for testing must have many diversions and a sufficient length to allow multiple test areas.

Recommended Funding: \$500,000

Coordination: This research program must be coordinated with "Research Program - Small Diversion Fish Screens." Input should be sought from groups involved in fish screening issues such as the Fish Facilities Team, the CVPIA's Anadromous Fish Screen Program, the Interagency Ecological Program's Agricultural Diversion PWT, local Resource Conservation Districts, and local watershed groups.

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